

choice. Water provides food, and that equals jobs.

□ 1715

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE TRUE MEANING OF THANKSGIVING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, the Thanksgiving thoughts that I offer this evening were written by someone who sacrificed a great deal for someone that they loved. It has really nothing to do with roast turkey or pumpkin or all of the homey images that we have come to equate with this holiday. Tonight, I want to speak of a day whose noble purpose and origins are often lost on those who think of it as only "Turkey Day."

The truth is, this national holiday has much more to do with Presidents than it does pilgrims; more to do with our precious freedoms than sumptuous feasts. Yes, it's wonderful to have Thanksgiving dinner with precious loved ones, it's wonderful to have that time with those that we care about, but this was also meant to be a time of giving thanks to God for all of his blessings, including the gift of freedom, something that often gets lost in this season, forgetting it was bought by the blood of past generations of Americans, a sacrifice still borne by so many men and women in the armed services in the battlefield these very moments.

A national day of thanksgiving to God was actually called after America became a Nation by two of our greatest Presidents and Commanders in Chief, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The first one was in 1789, right after this new Nation was still healing from the wounds of the American Revolution. General Washington, who had led those who favored revolution against the will of those who did not, was now seeking to unite a people with a new Constitution as one Nation under God.

There wasn't another national celebration of the day for 74 years and, ironically, it was during the Civil War in 1863, in the midst of one of our greatest national tragedies, that President Abraham Lincoln called for all his "fellow citizens in every part of the United States to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens" so "that God could and should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one

heart and one voice, by the whole American people."

He went on to say "We have forgotten God" and "It is the duty of nations as well as men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord."

Those words spoken nearly 1½ centuries ago came from a President who had found his own faith just a few months before. As he walked among the graves of thousands of soldiers who had fallen at the Battle of Gettysburg, his heart had broken over their tragic sacrifice. Abraham Lincoln was a President who deeply valued the lives of all Americans—civilian, slaves, and all soldiers, including everyone who actually fought against him.

The just freedom of hundreds of thousands of slaves had cost hundreds of thousands of American lives. It was an unspeakable sacrifice that weighed so heavily on him, and he believed only God could give him strength to unite the Nation again. He wrote a letter to a friend and said that he had not been a truer believer when he left Illinois to assume the Presidency.

"I asked the people to pray for me," he wrote. I was not a Christian. When I buried my son, the severest trial of my life, I was not a Christian. But when I went to Gettysburg and saw the graves of thousands of soldiers, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ."

Abraham Lincoln understood the high cost of freedom, but counting the cost and trusting God to hold and ultimately heal the Nation, President Abraham Lincoln ended slavery in America forever. Mr. Lincoln and George Washington both understood the high cost of freedom and helped to forge a new Nation with unheard of liberties, Mr. Speaker, including the right to disagree. And both of them called the Nation to thank God.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to go home to our families and loved ones, let us remember what every man and woman in the Armed Forces can tell you personally: freedom is never free. And as we sit down to Thanksgiving dinner, let us be thankful to all of those who have died that we might live in freedom—from the American Revolution to this current war we fight against jihadist terrorism. And let us thank the God, from Whom all blessings come, for this marvelous gift we call liberty and justice for all.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT EDUVIGES WOLF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker and Members, I have come to the floor to speak

about two extraordinary individuals today. I rise first to honor the memory of Sergeant Eduviges Preciado Wolf of Hawthorne, California. Sergeant Eduviges was an Army sergeant assigned to the 704th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, out of Fort Carson, Colorado. Sergeant Wolf was a hero who gave her life in service to her country.

Sergeant Wolf, also known as "Duvi," dreamed of serving in the U.S. military as a child who emigrated to the United States from Mexico with her family. As soon as Duvi was able, she joined the United States military so that she could fulfill her lifelong dream to serve and protect her country. She met her husband Josh at Fort Bragg. Together, they had two daughters: 3-year-old Isabel and 1-year-old Valerie. Both Duvi and Josh were deployed to Afghanistan, where they served in separate units. Tragically, Duvi recently died in an insurgent attack while in Afghanistan. She was only 24 years old.

Earlier this month, on Veterans Day, I had the honor and privilege of participating in events with veterans and their families in my congressional district in Hawthorne and Inglewood, California. I was deeply moved by the families of our servicemembers. Not only do servicemembers make major sacrifices, but so do their families. They live with the harsh realities of war and its implications on them. Spouses must sacrifice long-term career planning, and children are often-times forced to transfer to different schools throughout the country. Tragically, as is the reality of combat theatre, some of our troops do not make it home.

Today, I salute and thank Sergeant Wolf, along with all of our Nation's past and present heroes who sacrifice a great deal in service to this country. I expressed my condolences to Duvi's sister Cecilia in Hawthorne on Veterans Day, and I know that her friends and family are still mourning. It is my hope that they will find comfort and peace in the loving memories and the distinguished legacy of service that Duvi leaves behind.

IN MEMORY OF TOMMY JACQUETTE

Ms. WATERS. I rise in memory of Tommy Jacquette, my dear friend of over 40 years, who passed away this week. I know that the community of Watts and the greater Los Angeles area are grieving with me, because we have all lost a truly unique, larger-than-life friend and activist who had his finger on the pulse of the community.

Born in South Central Los Angeles in 1943, Tommy Jacquette as a young man became part of the Black Power Movement of the 1960s and sharpened his leadership skills during his studies at Cal-Poly Pomona. He was acutely aware of the problems and issues facing the African American community, and he wanted to make a difference.

Tommy especially loved Watts, and he dedicated his life's work to enriching the community. He was the founder